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*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, FDD/00

DATE:

31 January 1958

FROM : Chief, ER/CR

SUBJECT: Request for Survey of Foreign Publications (Western World)

1. During the past four years the need for additional biographic information on foreign scientists has increased substantially as a result of the following:

a. The President's appeal for international cooperation in the development of peaceful uses of atomic energy, which has resulted in the convocation of a large number of international scientific meetings and has served as a basis for the establishment of many national and international organizations and agreements for the exchange of scientific data.

b. The enactment by Congress of a series of bilateral agreements between the US and several foreign nations to permit the exchange of information and materials relating to the peaceful applications of atomic energy.

c. The addition of a new Supplement, entitled "Key Personalities", to the NIS publications. Prepared for each NIS area and subject to periodic revision, this chapter consists of narrative biographies, prepared jointly by ER and the Departments of State and Defense, on significant personalities in the fields of government, politics, military defense, economics and science.

d. A marked increase in Agency operations in the fields of science and technology, requiring extensive biographic support.

During the same period, the demands on the attache system, the Foreign Service and the Agency's operating components for intelligence reporting have increased and, having a lower priority, biographic reporting has, as a result, decreased.

2. Since it is unlikely that this situation will change to any considerable degree in the immediate future and since our experience in the exploitation of overt Sovbloc materials has proven successful, we intend for the non-Bloc areas to supplement the biographic reporting produced by intelligence sources with a program based on coverage of open literature. Because of the vast number of scientific publications available from these areas, it will be necessary first to survey the materials at hand and select for exploitation only those containing the highest percentage of biographic data.

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- 2. -

3. In this connection it is requested that you conduct, on our behalf, a survey of the scientific, technical and industrial publications originating in the countries on the attached list and supply for each publication, as an eventual basis for selection, the items of information there designated. Should you have any questions concerning this request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Enclosure:  
(1) list

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